



## South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



# VETERANS DAY AT THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR

At the request of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed Thursday, Aug. 28, 2014, as Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair, calling on all South Dakotans to honor those men and women who fought bravely for our freedoms.

At 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 28, the South Dakota State Fair will host a "Salute to Veterans" program. The program will be held on the Northwest Energy Freedom Stage (Recreation Avenue). The program will include remarks delivered by Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and Gov. Dennis Daugaard..

"Whether you are a veteran or currently serving, South Dakota wants to thank you and your family for the sacrifices you have made for this country and the citizens of South Dakota," said Sec. Zimmerman. "This is a wonderful opportunity to say thank you to a group of veterans who have not heard it often enough over the years."

SDDVA staff will have an Operation RAV (Reach All Veterans) booth set up near the Freedom Stage. All veterans are encouraged to stop by the booth and learn more about the benefits available to them.

Representatives from the Veterans Service Organizations and the county and tribal veterans service officers will have an informational booth in the Veterans Building on Flag Avenue. This booth will be staffed throughout the span of the fair and will give veterans an opportunity to talk to experts about benefits and programs available to them as well.



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Heroes Among Us—  
showcasing 125 South Dakota  
veterans.



## SDDVA TO PLAY A ROLE IN SDCMF SYMPOSIUM

For the past few months, Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard has been attending planning meetings and assisting in crafting the upcoming South Dakota Coalition for Military Families (SDCMF) symposium. This year's symposium will be held September 10-11 at the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls.

The SDCMF focuses on connecting organizations with each other for increased awareness, education and mutual support of service members, veterans and their families.

This year's symposium will include an exhibitor expo and educational tracks that address key issues important to veterans,

SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman will welcome participants and will be providing the opening comments. SDDVA's Ryan Fowler and Shane Olivier will be addressing participants on educational benefits and programs available.

Visit [www.sdcmf.org](http://www.sdcmf.org) for more information about the symposium.



## NEW CVSOS AT CLARK AND HAMLIN COUNTIES

Clark County has selected Larry Jones as their new County Veterans Service Officer.

Larry replace Bruce Brekke.

The office schedule remains the same.

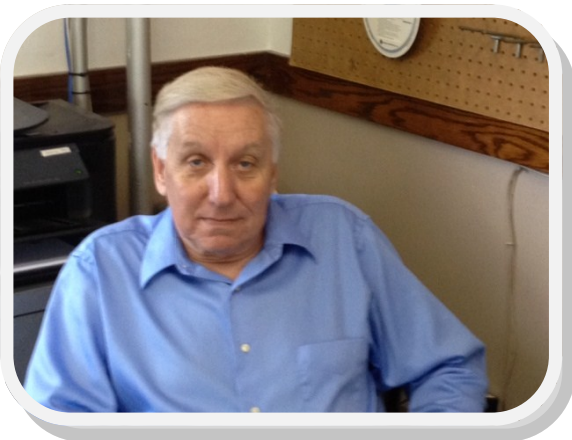
Larry's email address is [clarkvso@itctel.com](mailto:clarkvso@itctel.com)

Hamlin County has selected David Schaefer as their new County Veterans Service Officer.

David replace Bob Arneson who has served as the Hamlin County VSO since 1977.

The office schedule remains the same. Dave's email address is [hamcoem@itctel.com](mailto:hamcoem@itctel.com).

David also serves as the director of emergency management for Hamlin County.



## 15 SOLDIERS COMMISSIONED AS SECOND LIEUTENANTS

Fifteen South Dakota Army National Guard soldiers took the Oath of Office and commissioned as second lieutenants during a ceremony Saturday, Aug. 16, at Mount Rushmore National Park.

The second lieutenants recently completed Officer Candidate School through the SDNG 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, at Fort Meade, the first step in their officer training and development.

The guest speaker for the ceremony Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG, explained to audience members what it means to commission as an officer. "Receiving a commission as a second lieutenant puts an officer on a distinct career path that can lead to the very top of our organization," said Reisch. "These 15 soldiers were initially selected and approved for the OCS program based on the potential others saw in them. Their successful completion of this course is absolute proof of their potential."



In order to commission as officers these soldiers endured a culmination of three intense phases of training, which has prepared these officer candidates for the next step in their military career.

The intense training consisted of basic military tasks including physical training, drill and ceremony and troop leading procedures. During the training, the Soldiers were placed in high-stress environments and challenged to make leadership decisions.

The second lieutenants will now be assigned to units across the state and will attend Basic Officer Leaders Course where they will continue to train in leadership, tactics and branch specific capabilities.

Several presentations were made throughout the ceremony to include:

- ♦ The Battalion Leadership Award was presented to the 881st Troop Command, of Sturgis, and the 152nd Combat Support Sustainment Brigade, of Pierre, for the greatest number of students graduating from Officer Candidate School.
- ♦ Second Lt. Mark Bubac received the Endeavor Award for demonstrating the highest degree of consistent advancement, perseverance and devotion to duty during the training year.
- ♦ Second Lt. Jacob Moore earned the Academic Excellence Award by attaining the highest academic rating for the school year. Moore also earned the Leadership Excellence Award for attaining the highest leadership evaluations during the training year.
- ♦ Second Lt. Julieanne Morse earned the Army Physical Fitness Award for scoring the highest on the Army Physical Fitness Test.
- ♦ Second Lt. Patrick Moran earned the Erickson Trophy, awarded to the OCS graduate with the highest combined overall standing in leadership evaluations, academics, physical fitness and peer evaluations. It is given by the authority of the Department of the Army and the Air Force, National Guard Bureau, and is named in memory of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau at the time the award was initiated, Maj. Gen. Edgar Erickson.

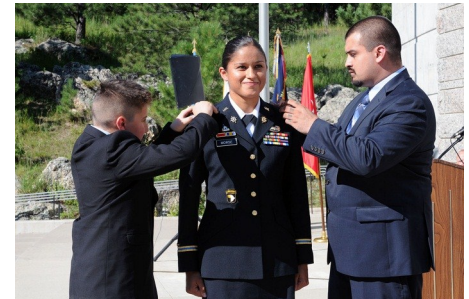




## 15 SOLDIERS COMMISSIONED AS SECOND LIEUTENANTS (CONTINUED)

The following is the list of graduating officer candidates:

Name	Home Town	Unit of Assignment
2nd Lt. LeAnn Hansen-Conn	Aberdeen	Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion
2nd Lt. Eric Brockhoff	Brookings	152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion
2nd Lt. Michael Ordal	Colton	115th Brigade Signal Company
2nd Lt. Jacob Vissia	Harrisburg	153rd Engineer Battalion
2nd Lt. Darin Lewno	Hartford	155th Engineer Company
2nd Lt. Trevor Reisch	Howard	842 Engineer Company
2nd Lt. Ivor Swanson	Rapid City	200th Engineer Company
2nd Lt. Mark Bubac	Rapid City	196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
2nd Lt. David Herrick	Rapid City	196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
2nd Lt. Jacob Moore	Rapid City	196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
2nd Lt. Russell Reed	Rapid City	Company C, 1/189th Aviation Regiment
2nd Lt. Patrick Moran	Rapid City	155th Engineer Company
2nd Lt. Harley Lynch	Sioux Falls	115th Brigade Signal Company
2nd Lt. Alejandro Reyes	Sioux Falls	200th Engineer Company
2nd Lt. Julieanne Morse	Spearfish	196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade



## VABHHCS TO HOST VETERAN TOWN HALLS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Black Hills Health Care System (VABHHCS) will host Veteran Town Halls at the Fort Meade and Hot Springs Medical Center campuses.

Veterans, their families, community members, and the media are invited to attend the town hall forum and listening sessions with the VA Black Hills representatives. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Robert McDonald, has directed all VA healthcare and benefit facilities to hold similar events to listen and learn from discussions with Veterans and community stakeholders.

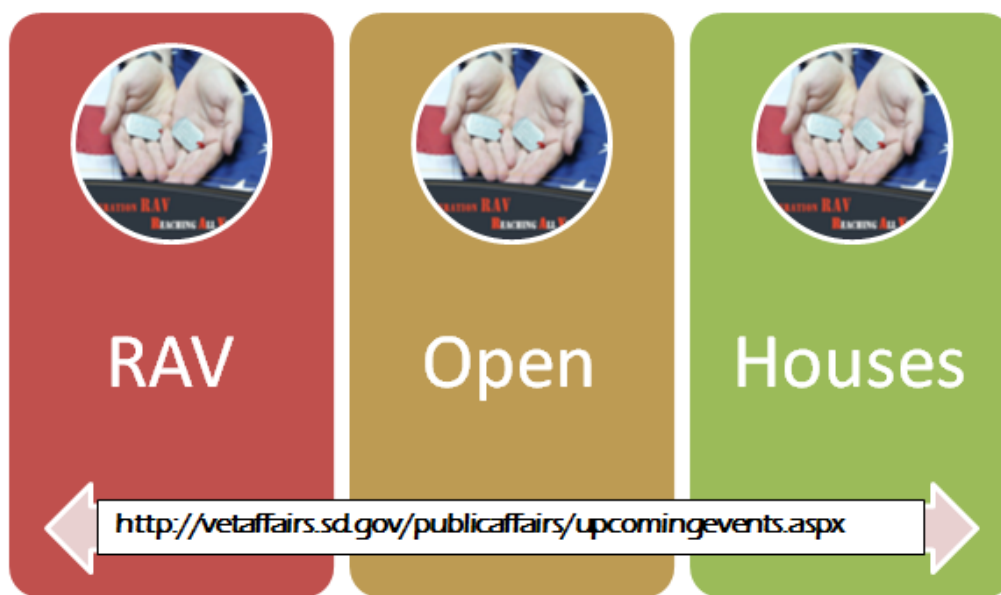
Fort Meade Veteran Town Hall—September 10, 2014—9:00 am—Fort Meade Medical Center, Building 145, Room 108

Hot Springs Veteran Town Hall—September 11, 2014—1:30 pm—Hot Springs Medical Center, Domiciliary Auditorium

# Upcoming Events

2014

Aug. 22—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Sioux City, IA  
Aug. 25-29—NACVSO Training Ramkota Hotel—Pierre  
Aug. 30— 727th DAV 10th Annual Charity Poker Run—Brookings—10:00 am  
Sept. 11—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Wagner  
Sept. 19—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Sioux Falls  
Oct. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am



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